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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 002428

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/17/2018
TAGS: [UNESCO](#) [PREL](#) [KS](#)
SUBJECT: UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL ELECTION

REF: STATE 130916

Classified By: POL M/C Joseph Y. Yun. Reasons 1.4(b/d)

(C) In response to reftel demarche, Seo Bihn, MOFAT's UNESCO desk officer, said the ROK had not made a decision on whether to support or oppose Egyptian Culture Minister Farouk Hosni's candidacy for UNESCO Director-General. In addition to reftel talking points, we gave Seo a record of Hosni's public statements on opposition to cultural normalization with Israel and background information on the corruption allegations at the Egyptian Ministry of Culture. Seo said MOFAT would factor U.S. concerns into its decision on Hosni's candidacy. Seo agreed with reftel's assessment that the Lithuanian and Bulgarian candidates lacked stature and said she was not aware of other viable candidates.
STEPHENS